retired from April, 1994 onwards resulting in mismatch between the funds available with the Trust and the funds required to purchase annuity for eligible retirees. The pension to the retirees is, therefore, being offered in phases.

Further the declining rate of interest has significantly increased the cost of annuity. This called for a reivew of the level of contribution and benefits under the scheme based on the actuarial valuation. Based on such valuation the Pension Scheme is being modified from 'Benefit Defined' to 'Contribution Defined' scheme is consultation with the Unions/ Associations. The revised Scheme would be implemented after completing legal and other formalities.

Re-appointment of probationary Air Hostesses as Traffic Assistant

2684. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of ex-Air Hostesses (probationary) re-appointed as Traffic Assistant in Indian Airlines, since 1999;

(b) the normal age of appointment for Traffic Assistant *vis-a-vis* the age of persons so appointed and the basis of relaxation given in age;

(c) whether complaint against such appointment in general or in particular has been received; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with its present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No Air Hostess who was on probation has been re-appointed as Traffic Assistant in Indian Airlines since 1999. However, one Smt. Manju Kala Pokhriyal, ex-Air Hostess was re-appointed as Traffic Assistant *w.e.f.* 8.9.2000.

(b) The upper age limit for the appointment of Traffic Assistant is 30 years. In the case of the aforesaid appointment, age relaxation was given after careful consideration of the peculiar circumstances of the case and on humanitarian considerations.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There was a complaint by her father-in-law alleging corruption/irregularities in the appointment of his daughter-in-

law. Government enquired into the matter and came to the conclusion that there is no corruption or malafide in the appointment of Smt. Manju Kala Pokhriyal as Traffic Assistant in Indian Airlines.

International flights from Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Airport

2685. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of international flights now being operated from Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport;

(b) whether any additional international flights are being planned in near future from this airport; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Following airlines are presently operating international flights to/through Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose international airport at Kolkata as per details indicated below:—

Indian Airlines:-	(i) Six flights/week to Bangkok, of which two are through Yangon. (ii) Three flights/week to Dhaka (iii) Two flights/week to Kathmandu.
Air India:-	Two flights/week through Kolkata to Bangkok.
Biman Bangladesh:-	(i) Fifteen flights/week from Dhaka (ii) Two flights/week from Chittagong.
British Airways:-	Two flights/week from London.
Druk Air:-	Three flights/week from Paro beyond to Bangkok.
Royal Jordanian:-	Two flights/week from Amman beyond to Kuala Lumpur.
Royal Brunei Airlines:-	Two flights/week from Brunei *via* Singapore.
Singapore Airlines:-	Three flights/week from Singapore.
Thai Airways:-	Three flights/week from Bangkok.